

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the applications.

**Listing of Claims**

5    1-10 (**Canceled**)

11. (**New**) A valve, comprising:

        a fluid channel plate with a top surface and a bottom surface with two or more

                inlet ports and one or more outlet ports connecting the surfaces;

        a membrane plate with a top surface and a bottom surface wherein the bottom

10    surface is attached to the top surface of the fluid channel plate, whereby the membrane plate including a displaceable membrane portion can selectively obstruct one or more of said inlet ports of said fluid channel plate; and

        means for proportionately actuating the displaceable membrane portion attached

                to the top surface of the membrane plate;

15    wherein the ratio of the sum of the periphery of the inlet ports to the square root of the sum of the areas of the inlet ports is greater than four.

12. (**New**) A method for maximizing the flow while minimizing the inlet pressure of a

        valve with two or more inlet ports wherein the ratio of the sum of the periphery of

20    the inlet ports to the square root of the sum of the areas of the inlet ports is greater than four,

comprising the steps:

- selecting the fluid, and
- selecting the wetted materials, and
- selecting operating values for six variables from a list comprising:
  - flow, temperature, inlet pressure, outlet pressure, area enclosed by the inlet ports,
  - 5 periphery length of the inlet ports, and separation between the displaceable membrane and the top surface of the inlet ports at full scale flow; and
  - calculating the value of the seventh variable by using a High Flow Periphery Algorithm.